

Message Text

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APPROVED BY E:CWROBINSON

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028150

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SA, US, USSAEC

SUBJECT: U.S. ECONOMIC COMMISSION OFFICE IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: JIDDA 823

FROM UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FOR AMBASSADOR

1. APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN. AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO "AUTONOMOUS" USG OFFICE OPERATING IN SAUDI ARABIA. CERTAINLY THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE U.S. EMBASSY AND ONE CHANNEL OF U.S. POLICY DIRECTION/CONTROL. ANALOG WE AND TREASURY HAVE IN MIND IS THAT OF LEAN AID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSION CONSISTING ONLY OF ADMINISTRATIVE, PROGRAM-DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM-MONITORING CAPABILITY, RATHER THAN THAT OF USGS TECHNICAL TEAM ATTACHED TO SAG. STANDARD EMBASSY-AID MISSION ARRANGEMENT ASSURES THAT AMBASSADOR/DCM CAN EXERCISE CONTROL OVER AID PROGRAM ACTIONS THAT AFFECT USG POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY OBJECTIVES AND HAVE COMPLETE MANAGEMENT, ETC. POLICY ISSUES WOULD BE INFREQUENT IF
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JOINT COMMISSION OFFICE WERE CONFINED--AS WE INTEND--TO

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, I.E., EXCLUDING TRADE, FINANCIAL AND OTHER POLICY-CHARGED SUBJECTS.

2. SEPARATE IDENTIFY IS INTENDED TO ENABLE US OFFICE DIRECTOR TO MAINTAIN A CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP OF JOINT PROBLEM-SOLVING, RATHER THAN FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS, WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, DUAL TITLE OF EMBASSY COUNSELOR FOR DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS AND MANAGER OF U.S. JOINT COMMISSION OFFICE CAN BE CHECKED OUT WITHIN DEPARTMENT AND WITH TREASURY IF THAT IS YOUR PREFERENCE. IN ANY EVENT, HE WOULD BE ON YOUR TEAM.

3. UNDERSTAND YOUR TELEGRAM MAY BE BASED ON READING EARLIER UNCLEARED TREASURY DRAFT PAPER. SOMEWHAT REVISED DRAFT INCLUDING NEA AND EB SUGGESTIONS HAND CARRIED BY BOWDEN. LATTER TEXT INTENDED TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AND TO ELICIT YOUR VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. REQUEST YOUR FURTHER COMMENTS AFTER DISCUSSION WITH BOWDEN AND PRIOR TO MEETING OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WITH HIM HERE MONDAY.
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